

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-10

NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-02 NSC-05 /080 W

----- 064014

R 191530Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6476

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USNATO 1463

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0978

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, IC

SUBJECT: ICELAND PRESS ON "UNDERWATER SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM"

1. BENEDIKT GRONDAL, CHAIRMAN OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, PUBLISHED ARTICLE JULY 16 IN DAILY DAGBLADID UNDER HEADING, "THE SECRETS WHICH ICELANDERS MUST NOT KNOW ABOUT," IN WHICH HE ATTACKED SECRECY ABOUT DEFENSE AFFAIRS. OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS AS FOLLOWS:

"THE MAIN REASON WHY THE AMERICANS AND NATO FEEL IT NECESSARY TO HAVE A DEFENSE FORCE IN ICELAND IS THAT A SYSTEM OF LISTENING CABLES HAS BEEN SET UP AT THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN AROUND THE COUNTRY. ON THESE CABLES THERE ARE LISTENING CENTERS WHICH SEND THE SOUND FROM SHIPS (INCLUDING SUBMARINES) TO THE MEASURING DEVICE OF THE DEFENSE FORCE AT KEFLAVIK AIRPORT. WHEN SUSPICIOUS SOUNDS ARE HEARD, PLANES ARE SENT TO INVESTIGATE THE AREA CONCERNED FURTHER. THE COMINGS AND GOING OF ALL SUBMARINES AND OTHER WARSHIPS ARE FOLLOWED THIS WAY...

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"WHEN THIS EXTENSIVE LISTENING SYSTEM IS CONTEMPLATED, PEOPLE MUST HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF NATO'S INTEREST IN FACILITIES IN ICELAND. THESE MATTERS CAN BE READ ABOUT IN FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS ALTHOUGH MILITARY AUTHORITIES HANDLE THIS LIKE A TOP SECRET, AND IT HAS BEEN KEPT SPECIALLY SECRET FROM ICELANDERS. BUT THAT WILL NOT DO ANYMORE. THE NATION MUST GET TO KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT THESE MATTERS AND BE CLEAR IN MIND ABOUT THE CABLES AND BUOYS AROUND THE COUNTRY. WITHOUT THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO EVALUATE ICELAND'S SECURITY MATTERS REALISTICALLY.

"THE DISCUSSIONS IN ICELAND ABOUT DEFENSE MATTERS AND THE DEFENSE FORCE HAVE NOW REACHED A NEW STAGE AFTER THE EXPERIENCE FROM THE COD-WAR. THAT IS AN INDISPUTABLE FACT. THEREFORE THERE MUST NOW BE A DEMAND THAT THE NATION BE GIVEN A FULL REPORT ABOUT ALL THIS. THEN OUR AUTHORITIES WILL HAVE TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ICELANDERS WHO HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE OF DEFENSE MATTERS AND AT LEAST READ THE FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS WHICH FOR A LONG TIME HAVE REPORTED THINGS WHICH STILL ARE KEPT AS A MILITARY SECRET FROM THE ICELANDIC PUBLIC. FINALLY IT IS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH AN INFORMATION AND EDUCATIONAL CENTER IN CONNECTION WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE MATTERS SO THAT IN THE FUTURE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE MATTERS ARE DISTRIBUTED AROUND THE COUNTRY."

2. SENSATIONAL AFTERNOON DAGBLADID FOLLOWED UP WITH EDITORIAL JULY 16 SAYING, "ONCE AGAIN DAGBLADID EXPOSES A TERRIBLE SECRET. THIS REPORT WILL CAUSE A LOT OF ATTENTION SINCE A SCANDAL IS BEING EXPOSED. THOSE IN POWER HAVE FOR A LONG TIME GOTTEN AWAY WITH KEEPING THIS SECRET FROM THE ICELANDIC PEOPLE."

3. COMMUNIST-LINING THJODVILJINN SAID ON JULY 19
"THIS WAS NO SECRET FROM US. ALTHOUGH THE CABLES ARE NOT MARKED ON ANY MAP OR CHART, WE KNOW OF THEM BECAUSE FISHING BOATS HAVE CAUGHT THEIR TRAWLS ON THEM. THESE CASES ARE NOT YET RESOLVED BUT THE DEFENSE FORCE HAS THEM FOR CONSIDERATION. JUST BY GIVING THE MATTER CONSIDERATION, THE UNCLASSIFIED

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DEFENSE FORCE IS ADMITTING THAT THE CABLES BELONG TO THEM."

4. INDEPENDENCE PARTY-ORIENTED VISIR COMMENTED ON JULY 17,
"IT HAS BEEN KNOWN FOR SEVERAL YEARS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS UNDERWATER LISTENING DEVICES AROUND THE COUNTRY AND THIS IS ONLY NATURAL. AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT JOBS OF THE DEFENSE FORCE IS FOLLOWING THE COMINGS AND GOINGS OF RUSSIAN SUBMARINES AND AIRPLANES. FOR THIS, THE UNITED STATES HAS

TO USE WHATEVER MEANS ARE AVAILABLE. THE LISTENING BUOYS
ARE USED JUST AS WELL WOULD USE CHAINS FOR A CAR IN THE
WINTERTIME. ALL THE WRITINGS IN THE PAPERS RECENTLY ARE
BECAUSE SOME STRANGE BUOYS HAVE BEEN FOUND HERE AND PEOPLE
COULD NOT AGREE ON TO WHOM THEY BELONGED."
MARTIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, RADAR, SURVEILLANCE, SUBMARINES, WARNING SYSTEMS, LISTENING DEVICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976REYKJA00978
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760277-0771
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760744/aaaabmpw.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hackerp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <31 JAN 2005 by hackerp0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ICELAND PRESS ON "UNDERWATER SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM"
TAGS: MARR, MOPS, IC, US, NATO, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, (GRONDAL, BENEDIKT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006